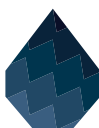




2018 ANNUAL AWARDS



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



AIS

SPORTAUS



**AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE**



**AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE**



WELCOME

On behalf of Paddle Australia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 Awards Dinner.

This event provides us with the opportunity to recognise the exceptional achievements of many people across all aspects of our organisation – from elite athletes to adventurous paddlers, from coaches and instructors to club volunteers.

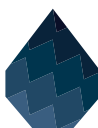
Every nominee deserves recognition and thanks for their contribution to paddling in Australia.

I would like to thank every one of our Volunteers, Club Members, State Member Associations, Partners and Sponsors for making such a difference to Paddle Australia in the past year.

I hope you enjoy the evening!



Andrea McQuitty
President



AWARDS

COACH OF THE YEAR

Previous Recipients

2017 – Andrea King

2016 – Andrea King

FINALISTS



**MYRIAM
FOX**

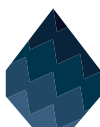


**ZIATAN
IBRAHIMBEGOVIC**



**GUY
POWER**

***Paddle
Australia*** 



FINALISTS

Myriam Fox – Canoe Slalom

The 2018 Canoe Slalom season has been extremely successful for Paddle Australia's National Slalom Coach Myriam Fox and her team of athletes.

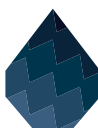
All of Myriam's athletes in the women's Canoe Slalom program achieved career best results in both the women's K1 and C1 classes on national and international level.

Myriam's ability to develop female athletes to an international standard saw two of her U23 Team athletes consistently perform on the senior stage and regularly achieve senior semi-final performances at World Cup and World Championship competitions.

Myriam and her athletes finished the international season with a record haul of ten gold, one silver and one bronze medal across both U23 and senior competitions -- a national coaching achievement never seen before in Australian Canoe Slalom and around the paddling world.

Once again, Jessica Fox was the standout athlete of the team, winning eight World Cup gold medals, the overall K1 and C1 World Cup as well as World Championships double gold in the women's C1 and K1.

The stand-out performances continued with Kate Eckhardt making her first World Championships semi-final and Noemie Fox joining Jess Fox in the World Cup C1 top ten – all exciting performances as Myriam leads the female Canoe Slalom program into the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



Zlatan Ibrahimbegovic – Canoe Slalom

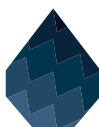
Zlatan is an integral part of the Canoe Slalom program in WA and has coached many athletes throughout the years, who have gone through the High-Performance Program.

In 2018 Zlatan had two athletes selected on the Canoe Slalom National Junior Team, Jack and Alexandria Choate.

Zlatan's vast coaching experience guided Jack Choate to his first qualification as the youngest member of the 2018 Canoe Slalom Junior Team. At only 15 years of age Jack competed at his first Junior Slalom World Championships and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the semi-final in both the men's K1 and C1.

Zlatan also prepared Alexandria Choate for her third Junior World Championships, where she made the final and placed fifth in the Junior women's canoe – her best career performance to date.

Zlatan's ability to develop up and coming talent continues to be an asset to Paddle WA and the National High-Performance Program.



Guy Power – Paracanoe

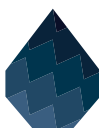
Guy Power has been an integral part of the Australian Paracanoe Program for a number of years, initially as Assistant Coach and recently also acting in the role as National Paracanoe Coach.

Along with his coaching duties, Guy has been involved with development programs such as the Surf to Kayak Program and the Junior Sprint Program. He has also been providing coaching assistance to other elite categories within the Australian Team.

Guy has gone above and beyond to ensure the programs he is involved with work to their full potential and the results have been outstanding.

The Paracanoe Team had a successful 2018 World Championship in Portugal bringing home two gold and one silver medal with all athletes making the A-Finals.

Guy's commitment and dedication to the sport puts Australia in good stead as we approach the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



AWARD OF MERIT

Previous Recipients

2017 – Alyssa Bull, Amanda Reynolds, Susan Seipel

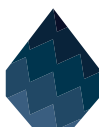
2016 – Jessica Fox, 2016 Paracanoe Team & U23 Women's C1 Team

SERVICES TO PADDLING

Previous Recipients

2017 – Ross Cook, Marion Ewing

2016 – Duncan Cochrane, Peter Martin, Peter Eckhardt & John Moore



MASTER PADDLER OF THE YEAR

Previous Recipients

2017 – Michael Leverett

2016 – Clint Robinson

FINALISTS



**LAURA
LEE**

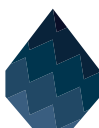


**CATHY
VENNING**



**JIM
WALKER**

***Paddle
Australia*** 



FINALISTS

Laura Lee – Canoe Marathon and Canoe Sprint

Laura Lee has proven herself in both the Sprint and Marathon this season with outstanding results both domestically and internationally.

At the Sprint National Championships, Laura competed in the open category and made the B-final in the women's K1 200 event. Her domestic season continued at the Marathon National Championships, where she became the K1 Champion in the 35-39 age category.

Laura successfully continued on to the international stage, where she won two silver medals at the 2018 Sprint Masters World Cup. A fourth place in the K1 event at the Marathon Masters World Cup wrapped up an impressive season.

Cathy Venning – Canoe Marathon

Cathy Venning had an outstanding domestic and international 2018 season. At the Canoe Marathon National Championships, Cathy recorded double gold in the K1 and K2 events and was crowned the National Champion in the 40-44 age category.

At the 2018 Canoe Marathon Masters World Cup Cathy continued her dominance in her age category winning two gold medals in the K2 and a silver medal in the K1.

Jim Walker – Ocean Racing

Ocean paddler Jim Walker represented Australia at the 2017 Ocean Racing World Championships taking home the World Champion title in the 45-49 age group.

He was also the fastest Masters Paddler across all Masters age groups and impressed with a time that would have placed him in the top 20 of the open category.



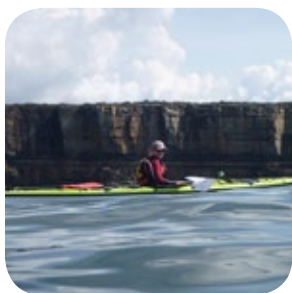
INSTRUCTOR & GUIDE OF THE YEAR

Previous Recipients

2017 – Angela Welsh

2016 – John Hubach

FINALISTS



**TRACY
GIBSON**

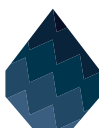


**GARRY
GOODEY**



**SCOTT
WILLIAMS**

Paddle 
Australia



FINALISTS

Tracy Gibson

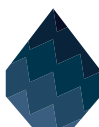
Tracy Gibson has been a guide, instructor and assessor for over 15 years. Specialising in Sea Kayaking and Surf Kayaking, she has been providing outstanding professional Kayak Instructor, Guide and Assessor Services to her clients.

Working for Sea Kayak Jervis Bay, Tracy has achieved amazing results in tailoring sea kayak guided tours and expeditions locally, nationally as well as internationally.

She has created kayaking programs for school aged children to introduce them to paddling and help them develop a love for the outdoors.

Tracy has also created exciting and challenging women specific kayaking programs for groups like Women Want Adventure to help inspire women to get outdoors and try something new.

She has been an amazing ambassador for the sport and instrumental in introducing hundreds of people from all walks of life to the sport of kayaking providing experiences on the water that her clients remember for a lifetime.



Garry Goodey

Garry Goodey has been instructing paddlers in flatwater, whitewater and sea kayaking for over 25 years. As an outdoor educator, Garry has been able to touch the lives of thousands of students across South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales through paddling expeditions.

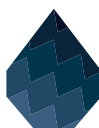
He has mentored many guides and instructors in the same areas and is also on the NOLRS technical board for paddling. Garry has promoted paddle sports for over 30 years and beginning as a slalom paddler, he has paddled around the world in white water and sea environments.

He has also provided instructing and guiding services for the Duke of Edinburgh award system in paddle sports, ensuring that the next generations develop a love for paddle sports.

Scott Williams

Scott Williams has been leading Wilderness Rafting Kayaking trips with students in Tasmania, New South Wales and North Queensland for over 14 years. Scott extended his guiding trips to the United States where he took a group of 32 people, including students and staff, for a trip down the Grand Canyon.

This trip was conducted as part of a school outdoor education program that inspired five of those students to go on and study Outdoor and Environmental Education at university.



TECHNICAL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Previous Recipients

2017 – Peter Grant

2016 – Marion Ewing

FINALISTS



**RUSSELL
BASSETT**



**JOHN
YOUNG**

***Paddle
Australia*** 



FINALISTS

Russell Bassett

Russell Bassett is a dedicated and passionate Canoe Slalom Technical Official at club, state and national events.

Russell dedicates his time in developing and testing the timing systems to ensure canoe slalom competitions and championships are run at an efficient level.

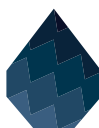
He is also committed to ensure other volunteers are trained in the timing systems, so they can become Technical Officials themselves.

John Young

John Young has contributed in a number of ways to paddle sports over the past five years in his capacity as a committee member of the Victorian Marathon Committee.

He was instrumental in promoting online entries, thus simplifying race day entries. He also developed a handicap system to include all paddlers and all boat classes to ensure there is a fair and true measure of a competitor's ability.

Most importantly, John has introduced the Webscorer timing and entry system that is now becoming the standard system for marathon racing nationally.



JUNIOR PADDLER OF THE YEAR

NON OLYMPIC

Previous Recipients

2017 – Erin Blanch

2016 – Fergus Morgan

FINALISTS



**BRIANNA
JONES**

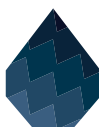


**OSCAR
JONES**



**GEORGIA
SINCLAIR**

Paddle 
Australia



FINALISTS

Brianna Jones – Canoe Marathon

Brianna Jones started her 2018 season with a second place in the K1 and a first place in the K2 at the Marathon National Championships.

She continued on to represent Australia at the 2018 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships, where she finished seventh. Brianna also teamed up with Hannah Scott in the K2 at the World Championships and finished fifth.

Brianna participated in the Train Smart Development Program to improve her times, which reflected in her results this season.

Oscar Jones – Ocean Racing

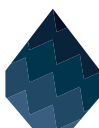
Ocean racer Oscar Jones won the 2017 Ocean Racing World Championship taking home the Junior World Champion crown after an outstanding performance in a strong international field.

Oscar continued his dominance in the 2017/18 Australian Ocean Racing Series winning the U19 men's title and placing ninth in the Open Men.

Georgia Sinclair – Ocean Racing

Georgia Sinclair contested her first Ocean Racing World Championships at the end of 2017, where her outstanding performance resulted in a World Championships silver medal.

Georgia continued her strong performances in the 2017/18 Australian Ocean Racing Series winning the U19 women's title and placing eighth overall in the Open Women.



JUNIOR PADDLER OF THE YEAR

OLYMPIC

Previous Recipients

2017 – Dylan Littlehales

2016 – Dylan Littlehales

FINALISTS



**FLETCHER
ARMSTRONG**



**ALEXANDRIA
CHOATE**



**JENAYA
MASSIE**

Paddle 
Australia



FINALISTS

Fletcher Armstrong – Canoe Sprint

Fletcher Armstrong collected eight gold medals and a silver medal from the 10 events he entered at the 2018 Sprint National Championships.

He was selected to the Australian team for the inaugural Asia Pacific Sprint Cup, where he won four gold and two silver medals.

He continued on to compete at the 2018 Sprint Olympic Hopes Regatta, where he finished 14th in the K1 200 and 23rd in the K1 500.

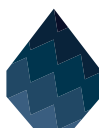
Together with his K2 partner Jarrah Sheppard, Fletcher narrowly missed out on a podium finish with an impressive fourth place in the K2 1000.

Alexandria Choate – Canoe Slalom

Alexandria Choate started her 2018 season with strong performances at the Canoe Slalom National Championships and was crowned Junior National Champion in both the K1 and C1 events.

A humble and hardworking athlete, Alex continued her strong form at the 2018 Australian Open winning the U18 C1 competition and securing her selection to the 2018 Junior and U23 World Championships Team. It was her third national team selection.

At the 2018 Junior and U23 World Championships in Italy, Alex qualified for the C1 final and finished fifth – her best career performance so far.



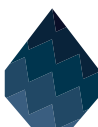
Jenaya Massie – Canoe Sprint

Jenaya Massie collected six gold and three silver medals from the 10 events she entered at the 2018 Sprint National Championships.

She was selected into the Australian team for the Asia Pacific Sprint Cup, where her strong performances continued with two gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

Jenaya continued on to the 2018 Sprint Olympic Hopes Regatta, where she finished 13th in the U16 K1 1000, ninth in the U16 K2 500 and 20th in the U16 K2 200.

Jenaya also was the sole Australian qualifier for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina and represented Australia in both the kayak head-to-head sprint and the obstacle slalom. She successfully advanced to the quarterfinals in both events.



TEAM OF THE YEAR

Previous Recipients

2017 – Men's K4 1000

2016 – Men's K2 1000

FINALISTS



**KAYLEN BASSETT,
ALEX & ROBERT
MCINTYRE**



**THOMAS GREEN &
JOEL MCKITTERICK**



**BRIANNA JONES &
HANNAH SCOTT**

***Paddle
Australia*** 



FINALISTS

2018 Senior Men's Wildwater Sprint Team (Kaylen Bassett, Alex & Robert McIntyre)

The Wildwater K1 Sprint Team of Kaylen Bassett, Alex McIntyre and Robert McIntyre had a stunning fourth place finish at the 2018 Wildwater World Championships in Switzerland.

Ranked seventh at the commencement of the event, they put down an impressive run and led the event right up until the last three teams came down the course.

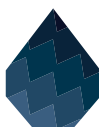
The fourth place was the best ever K1 Sprint Team result by an Australian team in the history of the wildwater discipline.

2018 U23 Men's Canoe Sprint K2 1000 (Thomas Green & Joel McKitterick)

It was a successful return to the National U23 Team for Joel McKitterick, after taking two years off for his apprenticeship, when he teamed up with Thomas (Tom) Green in the K2 at the 2018 Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships in Bulgaria.

Joel and Tom impressed right from the start, winning their heat and progressing straight through to the final.

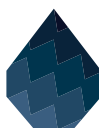
In the final, the pair stormed to an impressive gold medal, careering away to win the U23 K2 1000 world title by more than two seconds. Building on a measured start, they finished strongly ahead of European powerhouses Slovakia and Germany.



2018 Junior Women's Canoe Marathon K2 Team (Brianna Jones & Hannah Scott)

Victorians Brianna Jones and Hannah Scott are the current Junior Women K2 National Champions after claiming the title at the 2018 Australian Canoe Marathon Championships.

As a consequence, they were selected to represent Australia in the Junior Women K2 at the 2018 ICF Canoe Marathon Championships in Portugal where they finished with a strong fifth place and as the highest placed crew from the Oceania region.



PARACANOEIST OF THE YEAR

Previous Recipients

2017 – Curtis McGrath (OAM)

2016 – Curtis McGrath (OAM)

FINALISTS



**DYLAN
LITTLEHALES**



**AMANDA
REYNOLDS**

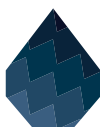


**CURTIS
MCGRATH
(OAM)**



**SUSAN
SEIPEL**

***Paddle
Australia*** 



FINALISTS

Curtis McGrath OAM

Paralympic Champion Curtis McGrath continued to excel in his performances throughout the international 2018 season.

In a hard fought battle following a late re-classification in the VL class, Curtis won gold in the KL2 and VL3 200 events at the World Cup.

He went on to the World Championships, where he finished the 2018 season with a double golden World Champion crown after winning both the KL2 and VL3 and adding World Championship titles seven and eight to his name.

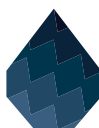
As he prepares for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games unconquered, his impressive medal tally over the short period of only four years in the sport now includes Paralympic gold, eight World Championships gold and one silver medal.

Curtis also continues making waves off the water and has been juggling his world-class training with his ambassador role for the 2018 Invictus Games in Sydney, carrying the message of the power of sport in physical and mental rehabilitation and mental well-being around the world.

Dylan Littlehales

At the age of 18 Dylan Littlehales is the youngest member on the Australian Paracanoe Team. He is a determined athlete, who gained his first podium result at a World Cup this year, winning a bronze medal in the KL3 200.

Dylan wrapped up the season with a strong fifth place in the KL3 final at the ICF Paracanoe World Championships in Portugal.



The Rio 2016 Paralympian also tested himself competing in the able body events at the National Championships this year with strong performances in all of them and winning a bronze medal in the K2 200 event.

Susan Seipel

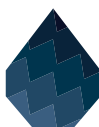
Rio 2016 Paralympic medallist Susan Seipel overcame illness at this year's World Cup and put in a performance to be proud of by winning a bronze medal in the women's KL2.

At the 2018 ICF Paracanoe World Championships Susan continued her impressive performances finishing fourth in the VL2 and sixth in the KL2.

Amanda Reynolds

Amanda Reynolds had the comeback of the year after a wrist injury sidelined her in the lead up to this year's World Championships. The Rio 2016 Paralympic medallist was unable to contest the World Cup as a consequence, but managed to be back in the boat in time for the World Championships.

Despite less international competition preparation, Amanda fought hard in the World Championships KL3 event to progress through to the final. The final saw an exciting photo finish battle for first with 'AJ' taking home a much-deserved silver medal and successfully wrapping up a disrupted season.



PADDLER OF THE YEAR

NON OLYMPIC

Previous Recipients

2017 – Alyce Burnett

2016 – Cory Hill & Jessica Fox

FINALISTS



**CORY
HILL**

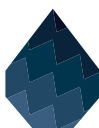


**REBECCA
MANN**



**ROBERT
MCINTYRE**

Paddle 
Australia



FINALISTS

Cory Hill – Ocean Racing

In an amazing performance at the 2017 Ocean Racing World Championships Cory Hill defended his World Championships title and made it two World Championships titles in a row.

Cory then continued his champion campaign at the 2017/18 Australian Ocean Racing Series winning the overall series.

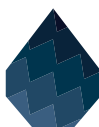
He also became the 2018 Molokai Challenge Champion, winning the legendary and tough Ocean Race and breaking a 21 year-old record in the process.

Robert McIntyre – Wildwater

Robert McIntyre is a seasoned wildwater sprint paddler, who has made four World Championship wildwater sprint finals in recent years.

Robert once again took out the Sprint and Classic race titles, winning his seventh National Sprint title and third National Classic title.

Robert also performed and recorded his best international results in 2018, placing fifth at the ICF Wildwater World Championships and posting the best result an Australian wildwater paddler has achieved in recent years.



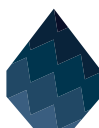
Rebecca Mann – Marathon

U23 paddler Rebecca Mann has continuously improved her performance as a marathon athlete over the past five years and started to show her true potential this season.

At the 2018 Marathon Championships Rebecca was crowned Australian Champion in both the U23 Women K1 and the Senior Women K2.

She went on to represent Australia at the 2018 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships, where she posted an impressive sixth place in the U23 women's K1.

Teaming up with Isabel Neilson in the K2, the pair recorded a ninth place in the senior women.



PADDLER OF THE YEAR

OLYMPIC

Previous Recipients

2017 – Jessica Fox

2016 – Curtis McGrath (OAM)

FINALISTS



**ALYCE
BURNETT**

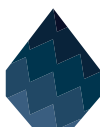


**JESSICA
FOX**



**THOMAS
GREEN**

***Paddle
Australia*** 



FINALISTS

Thomas Green – Canoe Sprint

At only 19-years of age Tom made his debut on the Senior Sprint squad this year. Following his amazing performance at the Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships winning gold in the U23 K2 1000 with partner Joel McKitterick, Tom went on to contest his first Senior Sprint World Championships.

He made the men's K1 A-final at the 2018 ICF Sprint World Championships and became the first Australian athlete to make a World Championships K1 A-final at the age of 19 since Olympic Champion Clint Robinson. He finished the K1 500 with an impressive eighth place.

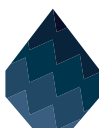
In another outstanding performance, Tom also raced the men's K4 in his first World Championship K4 event and finished just outside the medals in fourth in the event that will premier at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Alyce Burnett – Canoe Sprint

Alyce kicked-off a successful 2018 season by collecting four gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the Sprint National Championships. Selected into the Australian Sprint Team, Alyce then continued her impressive performance on the international paddling scene.

At the 2018 Sprint World Cup 1, Alyce won a silver medal in the women's K4 500, recording the fastest time ever by an Australia women's K4 crew. The team went on to finish seventh at the 2018 Canoe Sprint World Championships.

Alyce also finished seventh in her first ever Senior final in an Olympic- Class K1 field at a World Championships, the women's K1 500.



Jessica Fox – Canoe Slalom

2018 was the season of a lifetime for Jessica Fox writing sporting history, breaking several records in the process and becoming the greatest slalom paddler in the history of the sport – all at the young age of 24.

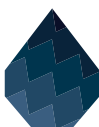
Jess started the international season with a bang and a “triple double” World Cup win, becoming the first athlete – male or female – to win the C1 and the K1 consecutively at three World Cups.

Her breath-taking success continued when she finished the 2018 World Cup season unbeaten in the C1 and took home the 2018 World Cup crown in both the C1 and K1.

She then topped it all by winning double gold in the women’s K1 and C1 at the 2018 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Her double golden World Champion crown brought her individual World titles to seven as well as her overall World Champion titles tally to nine (including team events).

Jess is now the most successful individual slalom paddler of all time.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Previous Recipients

2017 – Erin Blanch

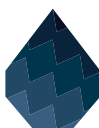
2016 – Amanda Reynolds

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Previous Recipients

2017 – Jason Dicker

2016 – Bernadette Wallache



PADDLE AUSTRALIA
WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR STATE
MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

**Paddle
NSW** 

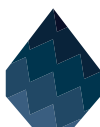
**Paddle
QLD** 

**Paddle
SA** 

**Paddle
TAS** 

**Paddle
VIC** 

**Paddle
WA** 



***Paddle
Australia*** 